

COCHLEAR IMPLANT UNIT KOGLEËRE INPLANTINGSEENHEID

HOSPITAAL • TYGERBERG • HOSPITAL



JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER • NUUSBRIEF JULIE 2013

*Stories van ons inplantingsgebruikers en hul ouers.
Hier is verkorte weergawes van hul stories. Die volledige
stories is in die foto-album in die KI Eenheid.*

REACHING NEW MILESTONES IN 2013

In 2013 the Tygerberg Hospital-University Stellenbosch Cochlear Implant Unit will reach another milestone by implanting their 500th patient. Celebrating this highlight you can also read about some of the achievements of our first group of children receiving their cochlear implants in the 1980's and 1990's. First, though the stories of the newer implantees....

Hannah Goddard (no 455)

Hannah Goddard was born on the 20TH October 2010 daughter to Ivan and Daphne and sister to Gabriel. On day 2, Hannah had her hearing screened in hospital and the test showed a "referred" reading. With the retest the results were the same. We were then advised that Hannah could have a hearing problem. We were totally shocked but continued to have hope. When the Auditory Brainstem Test was done a few days later the results were devastating. She was severely hearing impaired in both ears. By the time she was 3 weeks old, Hannah had her first set of hearing aids.

Hannah's speech was slow in developing and by 10 months of age she stopped saying Mamma and no other words were developing. We took her for another hearing test and it was confirmed that Hannah had become profoundly deaf in both ears. The only way she would develop spoken language was if she had cochlear implants. We sort of expected the news, but were still totally devastated with the news. The next step was for the CT & MRI scans to confirm that the ear structure was able to accept implants. This was a very stressful day as the results would determine what kind of future Hannah would have,



would she receive implants and continue a normal life or would she never hear our voices or any other sound and be mute for the rest of her life.

Finally the good news, Hannah was the perfect candidate for cochlear implants.

At the age of 21 months Hannah had her right ear implanted. She was so good; it was as if she knew we were trying to help her. She never once tried to pull the bandage off and with the switch-on, 2 weeks later, she did so well. She was a little surprised at what she heard and cried a bit, but never once tried pulling the processor off. We had to wait for the new year medical aid benefit to come in before we could have her left ear done, so Hannah's left ear was done 14th January 2013. This time she knew exactly what was happening and took it all in her stride.

Today at the age of 2 years 7 months, she is a happy, vibrant little girl, who asks for her processors to be put on in the morning when she wakes up. She has a fantastic vocabulary and loves music and attending her Kindermusik class at her little school.

Josephine Endres (No 450)



Josephine was 10 months old when she lost her hearing. She was diagnosed with profound sensorineural hearing loss in both ears. After going through all the various assessments she was 16 months old when she had bilateral implantation surgery on 11 June 2012. Less than a month after the operation, we were scheduled for the big day on 29 June 2012: switch on! I don't know what it was like for Josephine, but for us, the switch-on was an experience that is tricky to describe because it was amazing but also a bit of an anti-climax.

We were so excited about the prospect of her being able to hear sounds again that we were a bit frustrated by the actual process of it all. Josephine was skittish & restless and didn't sit still & co-operate while the speech processors were hooked onto her ears. She did blink her eyes, which to the professional observer was enough to know that she was reacting to sound & that everything was working as it should – amazing & exciting. She didn't say "oh, I can hear you daddy!" Nor did her face light up at the sound of either of our voices – the anti-climax.

We went home that day with a blinking Josephine (literally in two senses: her eyes blinking at the 'sounds' she was hearing and also the blinking green lights on her speech processors)..... that day we entered a whole new world of technology.

Slowly but surely we all adapted & now her 'ears' are something we put on when we dress her & there is no resistance. Every morning we test the ears & she knows that these things help her hear & she doesn't pull them off or fight when we put them on – in fact when a coil falls off she points to her ear and goes "uh oh".

What was also explained to us was that this is a whole new way of 'hearing' & that while the implants provide the mechanism for sound to be perceived, intensive speech therapy is a critical factor in learning to speak. We attend speech therapy every week and it really does make the difference. We are fortunate to have a fantastic speech therapist that makes sure that the sessions are fun so as to ensure that Josephine is engaged & participating. It isn't enough to just attend a weekly session. To make sure that you maximise the benefit of those sessions, you actually have to incorporate the therapy into your daily home life as well. It is hard work but it is worth it.

It is now May 2013 and Josephine is 2yrs and 3 months' old. She is such a chatty little girl –she is an absolute sponge & uses over 200 words & she is not only describing things with enthusiasm (red car, brown gate, small dog) but also describing events (Jo'sine crying, laughing mommy). She asks for things (yoghurt– more! Or: Snack yummy...mommy please mommy), and also names & greets: "man! Hello man!" She is doing amazingly well & we are so proud of her. AVRIL & SASCHA ENDRES

Lilitha Qoto (No 460)

Life has changed for the better for us as Lilitha's family since she's had the cochlear implant.

Communication with her gets better everyday. I'm happy seeing her respond when her name is called. Because her hearing loss is severe at first it was extremely difficult and painful for me as her mother to come to terms with her hearing loss (it still is), let alone trying to speak to her. Since she's had the CI I find she is much more social, her friends at home are finding it easier to play with her because she can now hear them and is able to "talk" to them in her own special way. The number of words she can say on her own have increased and I find that she is not as "angry" as she was before the CI as her number of temper tantrums have gone down remarkably. I know it's still a long way to go before we reach our

goals but I'm very hopeful we will. With support from me and everyone else in her life, she can truly live her life to its full potential. ZANELE QOTO





It's amazing how something we consider simple, such as hearing can change your life drastically and forever. Nobuhle is my niece and she lost her hearing due to meningitis. To say how tough it was for her and the family is putting it very mildly. Nobuhle was a very soft spoken but very happy and an outgoing little girl.

Suddenly meningitis changed her whole existence, from a happy little girl to a sullen, unhappy and sad child. I remember visiting her in hospital, she had asked me the day before to bring her cell phone, so she could play music and radio as she put it, "It is very boring in this hospital room, I don't even have a TV". The next day as I came into the room, I was smiling and started speaking to her, but she started crying. I was very puzzled and asked what the problem was, and my mom told me that she had become deaf from the meningitis. I was so shocked. The whole family was very shattered and this brought all of us closer together. It was very difficult dealing

with the situation, especially as we did not know how to communicate with her. It was worse when the family was together, laughing and joking, Nobuhle would start crying as she felt left out. None of us knew anything about deafness before and we never had contact with the deaf world before. I always thought deaf people were born deaf and I never realised that anyone can lose their hearing due to various reasons.

On the 23/01/13 Nobuhle had a cochlear implant and now she can listen to music and watch TV and sing. The first time that she could hear, she ran around the house and screamed that she could hear herself singing. I don't know how to describe the joy and elation that the family had, from seeing Nobuhle happy. The sullen and sad little girl was transformed into a happy, outgoing, feisty young person. These days, she is just a chatterbox, you are lucky to have a word in.

This is just not only a chance for her to hear, but this will open doors for her for a lifetime of opportunities. Never take hearing for granted, I never really knew the meaning of that saying until it happened to my family. NESIA BARNES

My doofstorie begin eintlik nadat ek op 10-jarige ouderdom masels gekry het en die gehoor heeltemaal in my regteroor verloor het. Dit het my eintlik nie gepla nie, want volgens my het ek goed gehoor. Net my ouers was onsteld en om voor in die klas te sit, was vir my selfbeeld miskien nie so goed nie. Ek het tot vandag nog geen idee hoe iemand met twee ore hoor nie. As onderwyser het my gehoorverlies my ook nie gepla nie.

Nadat ek die onderwys in 1992 verlaat het, het ek begin administratiewe werk doen. Met verloop van tyd het ek agterkom dat ek direk na mense moes kyk as ek hulle wil hoor (lip lees). My gehoor het later so verswak dat ek 'n gehoortoestel ontvang het, wat nie veel gehelp nie. Ek is toe verwys na 'n ONK spesialis wat dadelik agtergekom het dat iets met die oor verkeerd was omdat my balans ook swak was. Ek het die lompheid aan die ouderdom toegeskryf. Die plate het toe 'n neuroon op my gehoorsenuwee van my linkeroor gewys.

Toe het die jare van plate laat neem begin, want volgens die dokters was die neuroon te klein om te opereer. Hulle was bang dat die gehoorsenuwees te veel beskadig sou word, veral omdat ek net een oor het. My balans het later so verswak dat ek moeilik geloop het en boonop kon ek ook nie hoor nie. Die Neuro-chirurg het toe op my aandrang die operasie uitgevoer. Boverwagting kon ek toe effe hoor en my balans was baie beter. Die gehoortoestel wat ek toe gekry het, het baie gehelp. Ongelukkig het my gehoor na so drie jaar weer verswak. Weer plate ens. Die neuroon het weer begin groei, en die jare loop aan. Ek het toe besluit op bestraling. Weer was die neuroon te klein. Die plate van my oor is selfs



op die internet geplaas vir konsultasie. Daar is toe ook besluit dat as die neuroon nie te vinnig groei nie, 'n kogleêre inplanting 'n moontlikheid is. My ouderdom was ook 'n probleem vir die haalbaarheid vir so 'n duur proses. Namate die neuroon gegroei het, kon ek later niks hoor nie behalwe vir die 10 ton-vragmotor wat gedurig in my oor staan en luiet. Om van mal te word. Gelukkig kan mens aan alles gewoond raak.

So het ek uiteindelik op 3 Desember 2012 'n kogleêre inplanting gekry. Die wagperiode voordat die apparaat aangeskakel sou word, was vir my baie lank. Die heuglike dag in Februarie 2013 het uiteindelik aangebreek. Ek het sonder enige verwagting gaan sit, maar toe die klank aangeskakel word --- en ek hoor dit --- Onbeskryflik. Hoe ek dit reggekry het om nie in tranes uit te bars nie, weet ek nie. Dit was asof iets rondom my oopgegaan het. 'n Wydheid van klank om jou en die doodse stilte is weg. Ek kon elke woord hoor wat die oudioloog sê. Dit was werklik 'n wonderwerk. Skielik het my lewe handomkeer verander. Ek is weer deel van die lewe. Mense hoef nie vir my te skryf nie. Ek kan gesprekke voer, besluite neem, weer saam met vriende rugby kyk. Huil oor die Stormers, my eie stem hoor en nie meer gillend praat nie. Nou eers lus vir die lewe, want daar is nog so baie wat gedoen kan word. Elke dag hoor ek beter. Dan is daar ook die groot dankbaarheid wat my eintlik klein laat voel omdat ek so bevoorreg is. Aan almal en veral Ons Hemelse Vader en die baie wat vir my gebid het. Dankie, dankie.

Louisa (Booyesen) Da Silva (No 433)



Ek is 45 jaar oud. Nooit kon ek dink dat 'n kogleëre inplanting vir my na 40jaar 'n nuwe uitdaging in my lewe sal wees nie.

'n Paar jaar gelede het 'n dokter vir my 'n kogleëre inplanting voorgestel, maar het gedink dat ek te oud was vir die inplanting.

Op die ouderdom van 4 jaar het my familie ontdek dat ek 'n gehoorgebrek het. Hulle het my moeder ingelig maar op daardie stadium wou sy dit nie aanvaar nie. Ek is verwys na die Dominikaanse Skool vir Dowes maar sy het geweier. Sy plaas my in 'n gewone laerskool sonder gehoorapparate. Na 'n jaar op laerskool het my moeder aanvaar dat ek wel 'n gehoorverlies het en het ek gehoorapparate gekry en na die Dowe Skool gegaan. Ses jaar later het ek myself ingeskryf by 'n gewone skool en het goed gevorder met geborgde apparate. Ek het myself daarna bekwaam as 'n haarkapster en vier jaar later my eie haarsalon oopgemaak en is 23 jaar in die bedryf. Daar was geen kans vir my gegun om my eie lewe in die horende wêreld te beproef nie. Deur al my harde werk het ek baie meer as 'n gewone persoon bereik en sukses behaal. My kogleëre inplanting het my weer die selfvertroue gegee om weer oor die telefoon te praat. Ek hoor nou duidelike klanke van ver soos die skool klokke oorkant ons huis. Ek hoor goed oor die radio as ek in my motor ry. Dit laat 'n glimlag van blydschap op my gesig as ek na die Afrikaanse gesprekke luister, veral Radio Tygerberg. Ek luister ook na musiek en geniet dit om saam te sing goed. Alle eer aan God vir 'n tweede kans met my kogleëre inplanting. Dit is my stuk goud wat ek ontvang het

Chanté Johnson (No 447)



When my daughter was 3 years old we found out that she was deaf. She was 10 months old when she had a fever fit. I think it's there where she left something behind, and that was her hearing. We then took her to the doctor, and since she was 3 years old, she

was supposed to speak fluently already. The doctor then gave us a letter to go to Tygerberg Hospital. When we got there they did therapy to see why she could not speak yet, we found out that she is 50 % deaf in her left ear, and 100 % deaf in the right ear. Since then she was a student at Carel du Toit Centre, where deaf children learn to speak. At the age of 7 years old, her left ear started to get like the right ear, and then they gave her the option for the Cochlear Implant. A week after her 8th birthday, she received the implant. It's been a year and a few days since she has had the cochlear implant and is hearing very well.

Caden Baker (No 451)



Caden was 3 years old when he was unable to speak fluently as his older sister had at the same age. I was referred to Red Cross hospital where he was diagnosed with a moderate to severe sensory neural hearing loss in both ears. He was also referred to the Carel Du Toit Centre. At that stage he presented with a significant delay in

speech, language and listening skills and was relying on visual cues to follow instructions. Two years on and Caden has made remarkable progress but the right ear was deteriorating and was no longer receiving sufficient amplification from his powerful hearing aids. Caden was approved as a cochlear implant candidate and got his implant on the 22.06.2012.

It's been almost a year since his implant and there is a huge improvement in his speech and language. He is able to use longer sentences and pronounces his words more clearly. In class he shows interest in all the activities. Caden is now an extremely social child and like to take part in creative plays with his peers. DESIREE

Nür Steenkamp (No 434)



It's a year and 3 months since I had a cochlear implant. I was cautiously excited when I agreed to have the implant done as I have struggled all my life to socialise according to the "norm". I avoided social gatherings where I needed to hear what people said and contribute to big group discussions. My hearing aid enabled me to get minimal hearing in one ear only and the cochlear was intended to give hearing to the other ear. It was successful in that I can now hear certain sounds and words from an ear which was not functional. I am still struggling with clarity of words and conversation in a big group is still difficult as I have to depend on contextual cues. I'm adjusting to the cochlear implant all the time and I hope as time goes by I will get more and more benefits from the implant.

Linus Odendal (No 464)



My ma, Linus, was vir my nog altyd of hardhorend en later heeltemaal doof. Sy is vandag 82 en is 'n pragtige vrou, wat 'n hele paar tale vlot kan praat. Ons het in die Karoo op 'n perdeplaas gewoon waar sy my pa ondersteun het, maar ook haar eie belange gehad het. Sy het, ten spyte van droogtetoestande die mooiste tuin gehad en het elke plant se Latynse naam geken. Sy het na my pa se

dood 22 jaar gelede in Pretoria beland waar sy 'n lewe as 'n erg dowe persoon begin leef het.

Sy het op 'n stadium besluit om 'n lewensdroom van haar te bewaarheid en met "ballroom dancing" begin. Sy leer toe dans en wanneer sy gedans het sou 'n mens nooit kon sê dat sy doof is nie. My ma wou nooit nader aan ons kinders trek nie, want dan sou sy nie volgens haar kon dans nie. So 'n jaar en 'n half terug het ons almal net besef dat sy nie meer in 'n groot stad op haar eie kon woon nie.

Linus het na 'n aftree-oord in Groot Brak getrek om nader aan my te wees. Dit was 'n ander lewe as waaraan sy gewoond was. Sy kon niks hoor nie en dit was vir haar baie moeilik met nuwe mense wat sy ontmoet het. Gesprekke was eensydig en

ander persone moes alles neerskryf. Ek het self etlike boeke vol geskryf in 'n klein rukkie. Op 'n dag was sy so gefrustreerd met haar doofheid dat ek net daar en dan besluit het om 'n plan te maak. My dogter het van kleins af 'n maat gehad wat doof was en wat 'n kogleêre inplanting gehad het. Sy het ook onderwaterhokkie gespeel wie se sussie ook 'n inplanting het. Na 'n intensiewe evaluasie deur al die rolspelers is besluit dat sy 'n kandidaat vir 'n kogleêre inplanting was.

Die operasie het goed verloop en die herstel was gou en uiteindelik was dit tyd vir die aanskakeling. Ek sal nooit vergeet hoe dit vir haar was toe sy die eerste keer gehoor het nie. Ons het altwee begin huil van verwondering. Dit was 'n nuwe wereld!

Vandag kan my ma amper nie glo hoe ons boeke vol geskryf het nie. Ek het vir haar gevra of sy nog kan onthou hoe dit was. Sy het mooi gedink en haar kop geskud: "nie regtig nie". Sy is so presies op haar tassie met toebehore vir haar gehoor. Ek dink nie sy kan haar voorstel hoe dit moet wees om nie haar apparaat te kan aanskakel in die oggend en te kan hoor nie. Sy volg nie televisie nie, maar 'n mens kan 'n gesprek met haar voer. Sy het onlangs weer begin dans...op 82 en sy is gou om te sê: "net vir oefening". Ons is almal dankbaar dat my ma uiteindelik weer kan hoor. Ons is net spyt dat dit nie al lankal gedoen is nie.

Kerry Lotz (No 473)



I came into the world 41 years ago. My parents only discovered I was deaf at the age of 2 years when they realized, I never got excited when an ice cream van arrived next to our campervan on one of our long overseas trips (bells going, kids screaming). Since then I was

fitted with hearing aids and attended speech and hearing sessions several times a week. My parents were extremely supportive, loving and patient with me and for that I'm so grateful. They put in a lot of effort to help me make my way in the world.

I went to normal schools with hearing units until high school. I matriculated at St Vincent for the Deaf, in 1990. To achieve my career goals, I did a 3 year advanced course in Interior Designing at Greenside Design Centre. Over the years, I specialised in many fields: exhibition, commercial and retail designs. Currently, I am a Store Designer, planning and designing supermarkets, liquor stores and dispensaries for my present company.

The travel bug had bit me when I was very young... I love adventure and experiencing different things. I have travelled to many countries. Australia as a Rotary Exchange Student, to Sweden, and most of Europe and America. A few of my favourite experiences were:- walking up to the first level of the Eiffel Tower, a 2 hours long trip on a semi-trailer(truck)



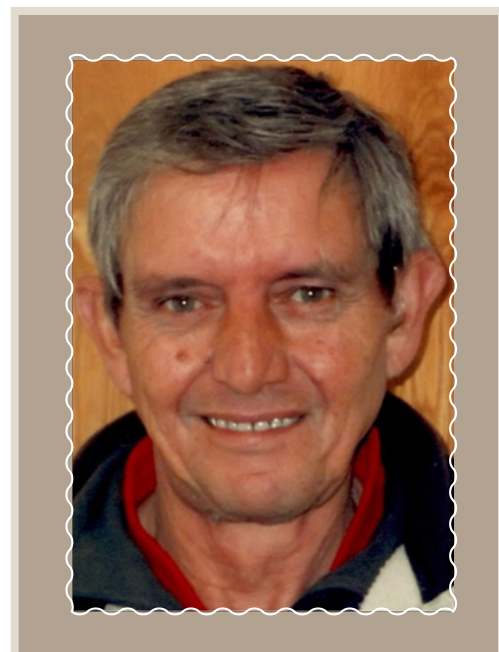
to deliver wheat in the outback of Australia, skiing down Andoraen snow slopes, getting splashed by Shamu, the Orca, swimming with the dolphins, laser shooting with my sons at "Toy Story" funhouse with Buzz Light Year and scuba diving at the south coast of KZN where I spotted my first white great shark. I've got two beautiful boys... I take them travelling everywhere when we can. Being in nature and travelling broadens horizons and knowledge.

I jump in with both my feet and try out new things. My recent decision to have a CI was an amazing one. Hearing things for the first time is incredible. I know I still have a while to go but this is a phenomenal experience, especially with my sons talking and making so much noise. Now let see what my next adventure will be.....

Robin Du Plessis (No 444)

I started loosing my hearing at a relatively early age if you can call 40 as being an early age. At first it was no problem as I could still hear enough to participate in conversation and appreciate the sounds of nature. As time went on my hearing deteriorated to the extent that I was fitted with a hearing aid. Even with a hearing aid it got to the stage where I had to ask people to repeat themselves in conversation. This became embarrassing and so I reverted to plan "B" which was to guess what was taking place in the conversation. Needless to say, this did not work too often.

Despite the fact that I knew I had to do something about my problem, I continued to procrastinate and in doing so my character changed. I became introverted



and dreaded going into a crowd. I couldn't participate in any conversation and the only TV I watched was the news on eTV because it supplied sub titles.

The situation eventually came to a head when my wife Hilary, couldn't bear the thought of continuing our lives in this manner and so we decided that an implant was the way forward. The operation went smoothly and all I had to do now was waiting for the big moment of the "switch on".

I must admit that what I thought was going to be a "ra ra" moment; my initial reaction was one of disappointment until I remembered all the pre-operative counselling not to expect perfect hearing on the first day. The fine tuning of the electrodes needed time and the brain had to adjust to the new sound until you perceive it to be what you would consider to be normal. Initially people's voices sounded like they had been sucking on helium when they spoke. This didn't go on for a lengthy period and now it sounds absolutely normal. Although I

didn't experience an immediate "ra ra" moment after the switch on, I can safely say that I now have one continuous "ra ra" experience. Since the implant, my life has changed dramatically. No more guessing what people are saying and no more introvert tendencies. I now welcome company and conversation. It was such a boost to my well being that I didn't hesitate to have the second implant done within a year of the first one.

When I go to bed at night, I remove the sound processors and retreat into the world without sound. It is then that I am reminded and will continue to be reminded what a blessing it is to have had cochlear implants.

P.S. From Hilary, these implants have made such an incredible difference in our lives. Robin now has so much fun with our grandkids, before the implants, he just opted out of everything. A comical upside to this is that when the grandkids are making too much noise, Robin just takes the outer piece off!

Ruth Hammer (No 449)



Herewith the list of plusses and minuses which I experienced since I received my cochlear implant a year ago:

I can HEAR now when speaking person to person, without needing to lip-read.

Although I still prefer to use my hearing aid ear when using the telephone, I need the support of my cochlear implant to hear clearly. Without this support I cannot use the telephone.

The four programmes of selection on my remote are fantastic. I can sit in a gathering and change both programme and volume until I can hear comfortably and then relax and listen.

I love sitting outside to hear the various bird calls. To hear the rain and hail falling in the garden is absolutely special. Those natural sounds are really appreciated.

Unfortunately I still haven't found a way to cope with noise. I can phase out supermarket noise, but in a diningroom the background noise overwhelms me.

Listening to a live musical recital is OK as long as it is not too loud. Singing, piano, musical instrument are fine; I even heard a recording of a cathedral pipe organ.

But I have been very blessed and privileged to receive my cochlear implant.

Anük Lombaard (UP)



Anük was born prematurely at 26 week gestation, weighing only 900grams. We lived in Jeffreys' Bay at the time. At six months of age we discovered through routine hearing tests that Anük had Auditory Neuropathy. Not knowing what this meant, we started reading about Auditory Neuropathy, but declined the advice for a cochlear implant at the time, for Anük was still too small and we had to come to terms with her condition and needed more information. At this time she was fitted with hearing aids and we took her for speech therapy. This was a good start for it prepared us to do therapy every day! Her progress was however slow in developing spoken language.

After a year we contacted the Pretoria Cochlear Implant Program and it was confirmed that Anük was a candidate for a cochlear implant. Our medical aid covered the procedure, but we had to contribute R90 000.00.

The implant was done when Anük was two and a half. For the rehabilitation we continued to fly to Pretoria to be guided on how to work with Anük at home, on how to help her develop listening and language skills. About six months after Anük's implant we moved to Port Elizabeth and here we continued with our therapy routine, but I had to send Anük to a mainstream playschool. Unfortunately she did not do very well in a noisy environment and she struggled to concentrate. I started contacting schools to see whether there was anything like a Carel du Toit School in Port Elizabeth, but unfortunately not. Being Afrikaans also made this whole process very complicated! I shared my concerns with my husband and a month later he informed me that the company he is working for has a vacancy in Cape Town. He was the successful candidate and a month later we moved to Cape Town.

Today Anük is attending Carel du Toit School and receives all her mapping at Tygerberg Hospital. She requested a second implant right after we moved to Cape Town! She is a happy well balanced and her speech is flourishing! As a parent it is wonderful to visit Cochlear's website and facebook page, where you see a lot of comments on cochlear implants. You can only be scared for that which you are not familiar with but

Kazimla Ndudeni (No 471)



It was on the 25 April 2009 I was blessed with a wonderful child, a baby boy called Khazimla at Private Hospital, East London.

Everything seemed normal as he started to crawl at 8 months except for he was not babbling. His grandfather insisted that we must take him to the doctor as he seemed to have the problem with his ears. At the age of 9 months I went to see the G.P. and then the paediatrician who recommended for us to see the audiologist and the ENT.

The ENT took him for an operation to take out the tonsils and inserted grommets. Three months later after the operation we went back to the audiologist who did an ABR. Khazimla was diagnosed as profoundly deaf with both ears. I cried because I was blaming myself. And I had never been in an environment of deaf people. They recommended hearing aids with the hope of they will assist him. He was almost two years when he started with the hearing aids. We also attended parental guidance at Carel du Toit Centre. There was no progress.

As Khazimla was growing older and by the look of the things the hearing aids were not working for him. We were referred to the Tygerberg Hospital Cochlear Implant Unit where Khazimla was found to be a candidate.

I applied for ex-gratia to the medical aid but when I've called they have told me it takes some time to come up with the answer as this issue need to be discussed by the Board of Directors. Time was ticking and there was no answer even after they have confirmed that they have received my application. My application was accompanied by the letter from Dr Wagenfeld which stated the urgency of the matter as my boy was three years five months I was frustrated as I was watching the life and the future of my son being destroyed. I wrote letters to several companies asking for help but their reply was they do not support an individual interest. The community of King Williams's town started raising funds with Fun Run, Car Race, Car Wash and the Gala Dinner but since it is a small community they could not meet the

required amount. All I needed was the authorisation number for admission in Vergelegen MediClinic. I got the authorisation number on the 03rd of December 2011 whilst the operation was on the 05 of December 2011. The operation was successful.

Khazimla started school and he can even say some few words like, open, big, walk, hello, mama and bye-bye, with the help of parental guidance that I am currently attending at Carel du Toit Centre in East London. I appreciate the thoughtfulness, the kindness and being so caring of people that have been with us through this difficult time. The family wouldn't have made it without your support. Thank you for your love, your prayers, your time and most of all thank you for the wonderful Gift of Sound. FEFE & SKURA

LOOKING BACK

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR CHILDREN IMPLANTED LONG TIME AGO? WHERE THEY ARE NOW AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING?



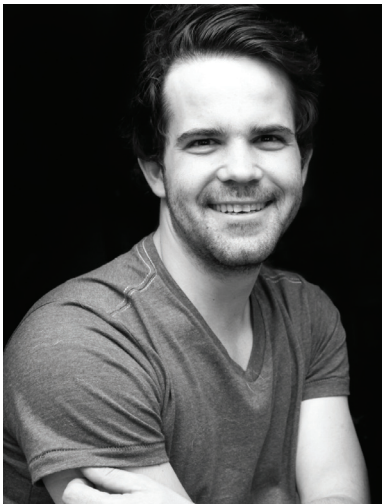
Christmas party 1997

Back row: Richard Spangeneberg, Juan Duvenhage, Elnette Botha, Laverne Smidt, Hughan Pietersen, Kaajal Naran, Carrie Rossouw. Front row: BJ van Eeden, Simoné Botha, Nicole Bredeveldt, Ashley Bredeveld

In 1988 we implanted our first child, Kevin Einstein who was 9 years old. Since then 313 children, between the ages of 6 months and 18 years have received their cochlear implants. We asked a few of the very first children implanted to share their life stories with us.

Ivan Du Toit (No 18)

Kogleêre Inplanting in 1989



Ivan werk nou as 'n CNC (enigste 5 aksis masjien in die land) masjien programmeerder by Stone Dynamics, 'n graniet verwerkings maatskappij. Hy het as "desktop publisher" gekwalifiseer te Print Media kollege. Daarna het hy sy kwekelingskap by Kelly Packer voltooi.

Hy was ook lid van die SA swem span wat aan die "Deaf Olympics" in Melbourne deelgeneem het. Hier het hulle as aflosspan die 4 x 100m aflos in wêreld rekord tyd gewen. Die laaste paar jaar was hy gereeld in Desember oorsee. Eers as Rotary uitruil student en later as deel van 'n Kontiki toer. Hy het ook vir 'n hele maand in Europa van vriend na vriend getoer. Desiré du Toit

Anja Van Coller (Willemse) (No 22)

Kogleêre Inplanting in 1990

Anja is 28 jaar oud. "Ek het matriek gemaak by De la Bat Skool en was vir 3 jaar in Hoërskool Montana vir horende leerders wat my geleer om selfstandig en sterker te wees." Sy werk nou by die Nasionale Instituut vir Dowes as NID Academy Multimedia Designer. Anja het haar opleiding by Visual Voice Graphic designer en Creative Mind gekry. Sy werk al vir 8 jaar as grafiese ontwerper en het van 2008 tot onlangs haar eie grafiese vryskut besigheid, Muse Design gehad. Anja het 'n besondere kunstalent. "Ek het ook 'n pragtige 3 jarige dogtertjie, en sy is 'n regte babbeltjie. Ek is dankbaar dat ek nog my kogleêre apparaat kan gebruik en klein Kelly se stemmetjie kan hoor. Vir my as persoon met 'n gehoorverlies bly dit nog 'n wonderwerk".

Juan Duvenage (No 23)

Cochlear Implant in 1990

I worked at setting and achieving goals both educational and in sport. I played golf and started cycling. In 2006 I received my Springbok Colours for road cycling & mountain biking. I was also selected for the World Deaf Cycling Championships in the USA where I came 11th overall. I still cycle today but due to my job, not at the level I used to.

After Matric I was granted a bursary to study Civil Engineering. This lasted two years after which time I felt it was just too difficult for me to carry on and looked at a new career. Because I had received distinctions in Matric for Mathematics, Design & Drawing, Computer Science & Business Entrepreneurship as well as the 2 years Engineering studies behind me, I was offered a position by Standard Bank at their head office in Johannesburg. This was a huge decision but I saw this as a great opportunity for my future. I was employed as a "Business Support Specialist" where I have grown and have been successful. I still continue with studies by doing specific courses each year. While living in Joburg, I miss my Cape Town family and friends very much, but I also visit with Ivan and his parents and we have some good fun together.

Hughan Pietersen (No 34)

Cochlear Implant in 1992

We moved to Cape Town from Gaborone in 1992. We left Cape Town in 1994 and moved to Harare, Zimbabwe. We picked up that Hughan had symptoms of glaucoma and we moved to England in 1997 to secure his future.

Hughan attended mainstream junior school. He went on to a senior school that had a special needs department attached to the mainstream school. After school, he went on to college where he did a 'Pathway Course' which taught him basic skills like - working a till, cooking, driving, carpentry, IT and performing arts etc. He then went on to do carpentry at college for 2 years and then a fine furniture making and joinery course for a further 2 years. One day he came home from college and said he wanted to work with caravans. His father helped him write a CV and then sent 10 letters to caravan companies in our local area. He was asked to go for an interview with one of the companies, and

he was given the job. Hughan has worked with the same caravan company for 2 years now and enjoys the work.

Hughan has a Facebook page, click on this link - www.facebook.com/speechfordeafchildren as we kept a diary of what we did to help Hughan from 1990. Sue Pietersen

Kaajal Naran (No 39) **Cochlear Implant in 1993**

I am 25 years old and live in Durban. I was born as normal as any other child until I was diagnosed with pneumococcal meningitis at the age of 16 months and lost my ability to hear. In 1992, we relocated to Cape Town and I then got my cochlear implant and so began my quest to hear again.

I spent 2 years at the Carel du Toit Centre from 1993 to 1994, and then moved back to Durban and attended the Stellawood Primary School (now called Durban Primary School) from 1st grade till 7th grade, and was part of the Partially Hearing Unit. Then I went on to matriculate at Crawford College in 2006. The experience at Crawford was challenging as it was a mainstream school and I was the only hearing impaired student in my school. I studied BCom management at Varsity College and wrote my exams at UNISA.

During my final year at college, I received 2 distinctions, in Finance and Entrepreneurship. I graduated in May 2012 and I am now completing Honours in BCom management, specializing in Marketing, at UNISA. My dream is to get my MBA and travel around the world, to experience the different cultures and food. Hopefully one day I would be able to motivate others to achieve their dreams, because if I can do it then, so could they.

Susan Krige (No 41) **Cochlear Implant in 1993**

Born in Malawi, Africa, and ninth generation citizen of South Africa. Attended the De la Bat School for the Deaf in Western Cape, South Africa. Graduated with a matric certificate in 2000, and went on to get a certificate in Graphic Design from MacTrain College in Muizenberg, South Africa in 2002. Traveled overseas to America to further her educational opportunities at Gallaudet (B.A. degrees in Mathematics and Secondary

Education) in May 2007 and McDaniel College (M.S. degree in Deaf Education) in May 2010. Graduated from both institutions with Summa Cum Laude.

Currently working at Gallaudet University as a mathematics lecturer. Susan is married to Dr. Murdock Henderson, an adjunct professor at Gallaudet University and is the mother of two children, Fiona (3-years-old) and Frans (18-month-old).

Carrie Rossouw (No 49) **Cochlear Implant in 1994**

I was diagnosed being deaf when I was an infant and wore hearing aids. Unfortunately it did not help me to hear and when we moved to Cape Town from Johannesburg when I was 1 year old (1989) I attended the Carel du Toit Centre, before starting my school career at the Dominican Grimley School for the Deaf in Hout Bay. At the age of 6 years I received my cochlear implant.

Wearing a cochlear implant is fantastic, it helps me to hear everything from voices to airplane roar sounds, and I love listening and dancing to music. I do sometimes struggle to communicate with people who speak too fast. After I matriculated I worked at Makro for 3 years and now I am working at Southern Sun Hotel at Newlands. My colleagues are very friendly and kind and learning to communicate with hard of hearing colleagues. I am on the transformation committee representing people with disabilities.

Johan Combrinck (No 51) **Kogleêre Inplanting in 1994**

Johan het die kogleêre inplanting gekry toe hy 8 jaar oud was. Hy is nou 28 jaar oud. Hy was by De la Bat skool vir Dowes tot aan die einde van 2004. Ten spyte daarvan dat sy spraak gebrekkig was het hy altyd gepraat terwyl hy met gebaretaal gekommunikeer het. Terwyl hy in De la Bat skool was, was hy ook 'n naskoolse leerling by die Hugo Naude Kunssentrum in Worcester omdat hy goed was in Kuns. Hy het Kuns met onderskeiding geslaag in sy Graad 12 jaar op skool.

Hy het ook tussen 2008 en 2010 by The Animation School in Woodstock gestudeer en het 'n sertifikaat van bewys ontvang dat hy alle vakke goed geslaag het. In sy 3de jaar was hy deel van 'n groep studente wat 'n

kort animasie film gemaak het vir n kompetisie wat uit Las Vegas geloots is. Hulle het die kompetisie gewen.

Hy het vir n jaar na sy opleiding by RGB and Alpha in Gardens in Kaapstad gewerk. Daar het hy deelgeneem aan projekte wat bedoel was om te gebruik te word vir beeldsending en tydskrifte, veral advertensies. Johan het so pas 'n aanstelling gekry by 'n nuwe firma wat Animasie werk lewer vir die industrie. Hy werk hoofsaaklik tussen horende Engelssprekendes en hulle kommunikeer baie goed met mekaar. Annemarie Combrinck

Robyn Adamson (No 58) **Cochlear Implant in 1994**



2009-2011: I studied Animation for 3 years at The Animation School in Cape Town. I also did a course called Mudbox at Touch Vision - Learn2 College. From 2011, 1st November to March 2012 I did my internship at Triggerfish Studio. The film I worked on was Khumba and my position was texturing.

2002-Present: Robyn excelled in ice-hockey and received WP Colours at the age of 13. From 2003-2006, received WP Colours, best valuable player. In 2007, selected for SALIH Team (South African Ladies Ice Hockey). We went to Sheffield, UK for championship. Received SA & WP Colours. In 2008, Selected for SALIH Team and played in Romania. In 2011, selected for SALIH Team and went to Iceland. In 2012, received WP Colours and Best Female Defense award. Robyn went to Russia to coach junior hockey as she had done the Level I & II courses. With the help of a translator she got the job done. The manager and Russian coach were impressed with her coaching skills. Three days before she was scheduled to fly back they offered her a job coaching the junior team. She accepted the offer and finished coaching junior ice hockey for a year in Atyrau, Russia.

Ashleigh Bredeveldt (No 59) **Cochlear Implant in 1995**

I did a lot of extra-murals right through school such as swimming, hockey, tennis, horse-riding, Brownies

and Girl Guides, ballet, modern and hip-hop dancing. I started dancing in shows from the age of 10. From there, my love for hip-hop dance grew. I competed nationally and finally internationally in Germany at the age of 16. After matric I was chosen to dance with a dance company, Renovatio Dance Company. For three years we did a huge production at The Artscape. I finally took my break two years ago.

I took a gap year after maric and one year later I studied Art Direction & Graphic Design for two years and then decided to do a third year in Graphic Design at another college. I graduated last year (2012). This year I struggled to find a job and went from interview to interview. It was not easy at all and I even applied for other jobs, not related to what I have studied. Two weeks ago (mid-May) I started as a financial intern. I am now learning accounting, admin, pastel and am enjoying it. It is an experience and opportunity I could not refuse.

So that is my life "academically". Socially I am "normal". I have my awkward moments where I am quiet in some circles. I can interact with anyone and can adapt to any situation possible. Because of my hearing disability, I always want to do something new. What is actually stopping us from doing the "impossible"? Cochlear implants ROCK! What would my life be without it - I have no clue?

Tahseen Ahmed (No 62) **Cochlear Implant in 1995**

I matriculated at Boston Private School in Bellville and studied Bsc. Occupational Therapy in 2002 at the University of the Western Cape. Successfully graduated in 2007 which was one of the happiest days of my life. Afterwards, it was compulsory for me to complete my one year community service which was at Lentegeur Hospital in Forensics. My work experiences so far; Tygerberg Hospital (2009 - 2013): In Surgery Unit (Hands/Orthopaedics/Rheumatology/Amputation/Internal Medicine) as well as in the Paediatric Unit. Currently I am working at Groote Schuur Hospital as a Chief Occupational therapist in the Surgery Unit.

Taylor Knott (No 63) **Cochlear Implant in 1995**

Taylor attended The Carel Du Toit Centre until he started Mainstream, Grade O at Merrifield Prep and

College in East London. During his schooling career, Taylor participated in normal school activities including swimming, hockey, running and tennis. He matriculated with distinctions in 2010. He is presently studying Agriculture at NMMU, Saarsveld in George.

He completed his first 18 months on Campus and is presently doing his year practical on a farm in the Cathcart District. In July he will return to Saarsveld to complete his degree.

The Cochlear implant allows Taylor to lead a normal life where he can now communicate with confidence telephonically. Donald Knott

Gareth Harries (No 64)

Cochlear Implant in 1995

Gareth matriculated from Marizburg College in Pieter Maritzburg. After school he went to Inscapes



College in Pretoria to study Architectural Draughting. He coped wonderfully and graduated successfully from this very challenging course that sees on average only 25% of the students who register actually graduating. Gareth is currently doing his 'articles' at a large architectural firm in Sandton and living in a

bachelor flat near to work. Once he has written his 'Board' examination in a year's time, he will be able to register with the SA Council for the Architectural Profession and will be qualified to independently submit plans of buildings, etc. for private individuals or companies. At work he interacts with clients and goes to site inspections with the senior Architects.

Rose and Morgan Harries

Brendan Tighy (No 65)

Cochlear Implant in 1995

I received my cochlear implant in 1995 and proudly wearing it for 18 years now. I finished my school career in 2005. I started my university studies at Stellenbosch University in 2006 and received my BSc degree in Physics in 2009 and BSc Honours in Applied Mathematics in 2010. After my university studies I started working for

Eskom in 2011. I am currently working at Koeberg Nuclear Power Station in Melkbosstrand as a Nuclear Physicist.

Rupert Van Zyl (No 66)

Kogleêre Implanting in 1995

Ek het in Lutzville in 'n hoofstroomskool Graad 1 begin in 1998. Aanvanklik het almal gesukkel om my te verstaan, maar gou-gou het my maatjies vir die juffrou gesê wat ek gesê het. Ek het tot graad 9 van uit die huis skoolgegaan en toe is ek koshuis toe. 2009 het ek gematrikuleer aan Hoërskool Vredendal. Ek kon nie besluit wat ek na skool wou doen nie en eers 'n "gap" jaar geneem. Ek was lus vir die boerdery. Aangesien ek op die plaas grootgeword het, was die geleentheid daar. Ek is nou 'n junior bestuurder op ons plaas. Ek is in beheer van die komkommertonnels en verpakking. Gedurende oestyd help ek ook met die tamatie en druiwe oeste en oral waar hulp nodig is. In my vrye tyd duik ek graag kreef en vang vis. Ek het ook verlede jaar as skuba duiker gekwalifiseer.

Warren Lewis (No 69)

Cochlear Implant in 1995

In October 1995 I had my first cochlear implant operation at Tygerberg Hospital; in December 2006 I had a second cochlear implant operation, this time on the other ear. This second operation improved my hearing greatly.

I am very grateful for and place very high value on my cochlear implants, since they are what enable me to live and function as a normal person. I would not be where I am today without my cochlear implants.

I changed into the mainstream schooling system when I moved from Dominican Grimley School for the Deaf, where I had completed all my schooling since I was three, to Camps Bay Primary School in Grade 6. From there I went on to Camps Bay High School. I matriculated in 2008. I have since completed my Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree from UNISA. I majored in Business Management and Communications.

Where to from here? I am presently looking for employment. Among my many plans and goals for the future is to be a successful businessman and an established author.

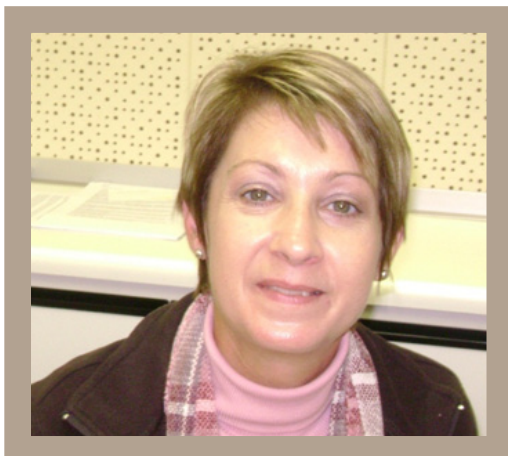
David Ritchie (No 84) Cochlear Implant in 1996

David lost his hearing at the age of 5 and had his cochlear implant done in that year, just on one side. He went back to Plettenberg Bay Pre-Primary with his bandage still on his head and was the 'hero' amongst his peers. David attended Plett Primary School and coped very well, always sitting in the front of the class, so as not to miss out on anything and he soon learnt to ask if he didn't hear something. David attended high school at Oakhill in Knysna and then followed his passion, photography. He moved to Bellville so that he could study professional photography for 2 years at Prestige Academy, while free-lancing for Independent Newspapers. After a year of free-lancing, a permanent position became available at the Argus, so David applied and got the job, where he has been ever since! During the recent Sir Lowrys Pass Village riots, a man, annoyed that David was photographing the protest, grabbed his sound processor and ran off with it. David ran (much faster!) after him and fortunately got it back - all in a day's work.

David was entrusted by the Argus to take photos of Barack Obama on the 30th June when he delivered his speech at the University of Cape Town. Lisa Ritchie

'N OPWINDENDE NUWE TOEVOEGING TOT ONS SPAN: ANTOINETTE DE BRUYN

Antoinette du Bruyn het die begin van April 2013 by ons aangesluit as administratiewe beampte. Antoinette het by FNB gewerk as finansiële konsultant, maar het besluit om eers net in die oggende te werk, om meer tyd met haar dogtertjie Dané te spandeer.



HEAR2DAY

Hear2day is a South African based non-profit organization for hearing impaired persons, their families and friends. We hope you find our website at www.hear2day.co.za a useful and friendly place to visit and invite you to give us your views and advices by commenting on the blogs and articles. Visit other parts of the website to learn about us and freely use any of the information we have made available. We hold regular meetings and provide information and direction to persons experiencing hearing loss. For more information contact Fred Benning Exe.Secretary at hello@hear2day.co.za

Hear2day SA in collaboration with the NCPPDSA are hereby inviting all interested parties to indicate "An expression of interest by cochlear implantees and their hhc professionals", who would be interested and committed to contributing toward the holding of a 1 or 2day worksession covering a variety of opinions of the "Joys and concerns of the cochlear implantation consumers."

The objective would be for participants and attendees to come away having learned something from the variety of opinions and contributions to life style changes, both positive and negative. This, in the end, would hopefully contribute to further research and development toward ever better and effective CI products and services used by profoundly deaf consumers.

Power One Implant Plus and Rayovac batteries are now available in the Southern Suburbs at the Hearing Clinic Audiology Practices in Wynberg (021 797 7948), Fish Hoek (021 782 3322) and Tokai (021 715 5623) A range of Assistive Listening Devices are also available at the Tokai branch (such as Shake Awake alarm clocks).

IN MEMORIAM

It was with great sadness that three of our adult cochlear implantees passed away this year. Our condolences to their families. We will miss them as part of our cochlear implant family.

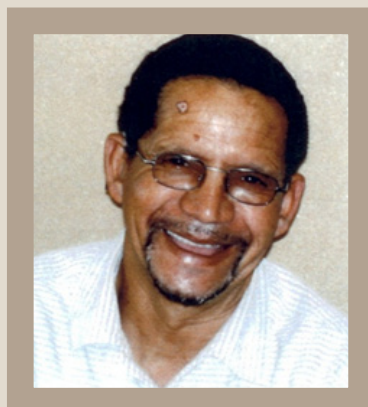
Trevor Beziek (No 17)
Cochlear Implant in 1989



Dave Ogden (No 173)
Cochlear Implant in 2001



Rueben Cana (No 291)
Cochlear Implant in 2007





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Swimming		●
Diving		●
Play in salt water		●



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